

Summary Sheet

Name of Committee and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting – 6 August 2018

Report Title

CCTV Priority Capital Investment and Policy

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Damien Wilson, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Lewis Coates, Head of Service, Regulation and Enforcement
01709 823117 or lewis.coates@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

All

Summary

The Budget and Council Tax 2018-19 report to Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting on 19 February 2018 approved the Council's Capital Strategy to 2021/22. As part of this, £60,000 of Priority Capital Investment monies were identified for mobile CCTV cameras.

The utilisation of technology to enhance the Council's drive to tackle anti-social behaviour is critical to improving the outcomes delivered by the Council and partners alike to deter and punish offenders whilst improving the quality of life of residents.

It is apparent that the Council, partners and residents would benefit from increased provision of CCTV technology to provide suitable capacity, capability and flexibility, and to support ward priorities, Community Action Partnerships and Tasking meetings. Current revenue budgets are not in a position to fund increased provision, and capital funding is therefore required to deliver enhanced capacity - the equivalent of one camera for each ward - to deliver the desired outcomes.

It is estimated that the cost of each individual CCTV system will be in the region of £3,000, equating to a total cost of £63,000 for the 21 cameras sought. Whilst this is an estimate, and the actual costs will be determined through a procurement process, any potential costs beyond the £60,000 allocation will be dealt with through existing budgets. Steps will be taken via the procurement process to seek to bring the overall cost of the 21 cameras within the original £60,000 budget allocation.

The cameras will be deployed in accordance with the Council's revised CCTV Policy, which has been reviewed and updated as part of this project, to ensure that the future use of CCTV is fully compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Recommendations

1. That the allocation of £60,000 of funding within the approved Capital Programme for mobile CCTV cameras be noted.
2. That the reviewed CCTV Policy and improved processes be approved.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix A CCTV Policy and Guidance (Overt Surveillance)

Background Papers

Surveillance Camera Code of Practice [Surveillance Camera Commissioner, June 2013]

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

CCTV Capital Bid and Policy

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the allocation of £60,000 of funding within the approved Capital Programme for mobile CCTV cameras be noted.
- 1.2 That the reviewed CCTV Policy and improved processes be approved.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council approved the Budget and Council Tax 2018-19 report on 28 February 2018. The report included the Capital Strategy 2021/22 which identified £60,000 of Priority Capital Investment monies were identified for mobile CCTV cameras.
- 2.2 Tackling anti-social behaviour is a key priority for the public and the Council. The key priority to deliver 'a strong community in a clean, safe environment' is a Vision Statement Commitment for the Council.
- 2.3 The Council has a number of existing systems which provide some capabilities to address anti-social behaviour, including CCTV on vehicles, buildings, and body cameras on Civil Enforcement Officers. However, these are specific to location or individual officers, and are not deployed to target wider anti-social behaviour issues.
- 2.4 The existing systems provide little flexibility and are not able to support deployment in line with local ward priorities or priorities identified via Tasking Meetings. The ability to provide one camera per Ward would enable a more equitable distribution of CCTV resources.
- 2.5 Whilst the Council does currently have a wider deployable system of cameras that can be deployed on street furniture such as lamp posts, the system has proven to be unreliable, with many cameras not working despite recalls and disputes with the provider.
- 2.6 Concurrently, the Council's CCTV Policy has been reviewed and updated. This was undertaken to ensure an up to date Policy was provided to teams that are likely to utilise CCTV, whilst also ensuring that the Policy is GDPR compliant.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 Whilst it is evident that the Council and partners take robust action to tackle anti-social behaviour, it is clear that further progress might be achieved through the utilisation of technological solutions. Moreover, CCTV provides a deterrent to potential offenders and reassurance to those affected by anti-social behaviour, with consequent improvements in perceptions of anti-social behaviour.

- 3.2 Furthermore, where images are recorded that identify offenders, the Council and partners can deliver enhanced enforcement up to and including prosecutions. This will serve to demonstrate the Council's commitment and seriousness in dealing with anti-social behaviour and improve residents' confidence in the Council and partners as enforcers.
- 3.3 The Council's current CCTV capabilities are limited in terms of both the reliability of equipment and the number of cameras available. This capital project seeks to deliver a system that is capable of providing CCTV cameras in every electoral ward, along with the flexibility to deploy those cameras in areas of highest need. This enhanced capacity and reliability will give the Council greater flexibility to rapidly deploy mobile CCTV, and to tackle urgent issues across in local areas, without diminishing capacity across the Borough, and ensuring the cameras are used equitably in each ward.
- 3.4 Any new system should aim to support the delivery of Ward plans and priorities through the Community Action Partnership (CAP) meetings, and local Tasking arrangements. It is therefore proposed that, should the cameras be purchased, requests by Elected Members for the deployment of CCTV will be made through the CAP meetings within each ward. Requests will be referred to the respective Tasking Meeting (North, Central or South) who will ensure the deployment requested adheres to the Policy, and then arrange for deployment.
- 3.5 Whilst the process for the deployment of anti-social behaviour CCTV systems at an operational level will remain within the Community Safety team, authorisation to deploy the systems will be subject to the Council's revised CCTV Policy and Guidance (Overt Surveillance). The Council's CCTV Policy has been reviewed and updated to ensure the Policy supports the training of staff who are likely to utilise CCTV, and the operational processes that underpin any deployment. The revised Policy will also ensure that the Council is fully compliant with all relevant legislation, including the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). In particular, the revised Policy addresses requirements to ensure that data is processed lawfully; collected only for specific legitimate purposes; is limited to what is necessary; kept up to date; stored only as long as is necessary; is secure and confidential; and appropriately documented governance and training is in place. A copy of the revised policy can be found in Appendix A.
- 3.6 Noting the unreliable nature of the previous equipment procured, officers are exploring more robust and reliable technology options through a procurement with a public sector partner. This will deliver a more effective and reliable system, working in conjunction with a public sector partner who has previously engaged a procurement process, to deliver a CCTV system that is already in use in similar operational setting in another Local Authority. This approach could also potentially reduce the time taken to procure a system.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

Option 1

- 4.1 The Council is under no obligation to use overt CCTV to deter and tackle anti-social behaviour. The Council may therefore decide that there is currently no desire to invest in additional technology. Whilst the Capital resources identified within the Capital Strategy could be allocated elsewhere, it would also limit the tools available to the Council to deliver its corporate priorities.

Option 2

- 4.2 This option seeks to apply for capital funding to procure a complete system of CCTV cameras to provide sufficient capacity and flexibility to deter and tackle anti-social behaviour across key hotspots within each electoral ward.
- 4.3 The Council has historically invested in a range of CCTV to tackle key issues; in particular anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping. CCTV provision has generally been at a low level due to the reliance on available revenue budgets to provide cameras.
- 4.4 CCTV is a critical tool in the Council's drive to reduce and tackle anti-social behaviour both as an overt and covert resource. Previous systems utilised have failed to deliver suitable capacity and reliability and have been the subject of contractual challenge to the system provider. Moreover where resource is revenue funded, there is a lack of financial flexibility to provide sufficient capacity and to deal with failures of equipment.
- 4.5 It is proposed to source a technological solution with a similar specification to systems deployed for similar purposes in other local authority areas.
- 4.6 In order to ensure capacity, sufficient CCTV cameras will be purchased to provide coverage for each ward across the Borough with prioritised deployment in support of the new CAP and Tasking arrangements.

Option 3

- 4.7 The Council might prefer a reduced financial commitment with reduced numbers of CCTV systems. Whilst this option might not provide the complete coverage of all wards, it could provide sufficient flexibility to cover major hotspots in key locations. However, a reduced number of cameras would limit the ability of the Council and partners to deploy cameras to deliver on ward plan priorities, or to be able to react to requests from CAP and Tasking meetings.

Preferred Option

- 4.8 Option 2 is therefore the preferred option. It will deliver a sufficient number of systems to deter and tackle anti-social behaviour in key locations in each ward, and the flexibility to support ward plans, the CAP process, Tasking arrangements and the Council's corporate priorities.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety has been consulted and is supportive of the approach.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 6.1 The procurement will be undertaken in line with the Council's Contract Standing Orders and options are being considered as to the best way to approach the market to ensure we receive a tested and reliable system.
- 6.2 A structured training programme has been delivered to front-line staff involved with mobile CCTV relation to the new overt CCTV Policy and in relation to the overlap with Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. Additional training has also been delivered to the member of Council staff acting as CCTV Manager within the Policy.
- 6.3 During the implementation period for the new Policy, the authorisation process will be subject to enhanced legal advice and guidance.
- 6.4 The Assistant Director for Community Safety and Street Scene will be responsible for the delivery and implementation of this proposal in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 7.1 The Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting of 19th February 2018 approved an allocation of £60,000 as a priority capital investment in mobile CCTV cameras. This report constitutes the request for approval to draw down this funding.

It is estimated that each CCTV system individually will cost in the region of £3,000. Consequently, to purchase twenty-one systems, one for each ward, of the cost might reach £63,000. It is anticipated that the procurement process may deliver the systems below the £60,000 allocation, if not, then any additional costs will be found within existing budgets.

- 7.2 It is possible that the deterrent effect of CCTV systems will have a positive effect on the resources required to deal with anti-social behaviour. Whilst no revenue savings are currently identified relating to this, any savings will be captured as the project progresses.

7.3 Procurement of the CCTV systems is expected to be through a public sector partner. This will ensure a tested and reliable system, that is already in use in similar operational setting in another Local Authority, whilst minimising the time taken to procure.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 The revised CCTV Policy complies with relevant legislation and the Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Code of Practice. It is incumbent upon the officers responsible for the deployment of CCTV systems that they understand and adhere to the Council's CCTV Policy. It is critical that relevant officers understand the circumstances under which the CCTV Policy applies and those circumstances where the requirements of the Regulatory of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 would need to be followed.

8.2 Failure to follow legislation and Policy can lead to failure of legal cases brought on the strength of CCTV evidence and potential litigation/complaints against the Council.

9. Human Resources Implications

9.1 There are no human resources implications related to this initiative.

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

10.1 There are no implications for Children and Young People or Vulnerable Adults. However, approval of this report will see additional deterrents which will positively affect the quality of life of individuals.

11. Equalities and Human Rights Implications

11.1 There are no equalities or human rights implications.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 There are no implications for partners or other directorates.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There is a small risk that the purchase and use of CCTV cameras does not lead to a reduction in anti-social behaviour. However, the Service assesses this risk to be low.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Damien Wilson Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment
Tom Smith, Assistant Director – Community Safety and Street Scene
Sam Barstow, Head of Service – Community Safety, Resilience and
Emergency Planning

Approvals obtained on behalf:-

	Named Officer	Date
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services	Judith Badger	23.07.2018
Assistant Director of Legal Services	Dermot Pearson	20.07.2018
Head of Procurement (if appropriate)	Karen Middleton	14.06.2018
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)	Not Consulted	

This report is published on the Council's website or can be found at:-
<http://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?Categories=>